

N.B. #2 12/14/02



City of Alexandria, Virginia

301 King Street, Suite 2300

Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Kerry J. Donley
Mayor

(703) 838-4500
Fax (703) 838-6433

January 9, 2003

John V. Cogbill, III, Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
801 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20576

Subject: Woodrow Wilson Bridge
Proposed Noise Barrier

Dear Mr. Cogbill:

For many years, the citizens of Alexandria who live near the Woodrow Wilson Bridge have experienced steadily increasing noise generated by the traffic using the bridge. Construction, now underway, to replace this obsolete and deteriorating structure with an aesthetically pleasing new bridge presents both a threat and an opportunity. The threat arises from the increases in traffic and operating speeds, and hence traffic noise, that the new bridge will produce. The opportunity is the chance to integrate appropriate and visually unobtrusive noise mitigation into the fabric of the new bridge.

Early in the environmental assessment and design process for the new bridge, it was recognized that several Alexandria neighborhoods near the Virginia approach to the bridge would be seriously impacted by noise, and that noise mitigation would be justified. The Final Environmental Impact Statement included a noise barrier extending on to the bridge, a concept that had been endorsed by the Virginia Noise Abatement Committee. Noise abatement measures were developed and approved for land approaches to the bridge. However, there remained 39 dwellings, as well as St. Mary's School, that could not be effectively mitigated, except by providing a noise barrier on the north side of the bridge. That option was initially considered ill-advised by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for aesthetic, safety and maintenance reasons. The Alexandria City Council asked VDOT to reconsider this position. In response, VDOT proposed that a transparent barrier, constructed of low-maintenance material, be placed on the north side of the new bridge which would provide the requisite noise reduction and, also, would minimize the objectionable characteristics of a typical noise wall.

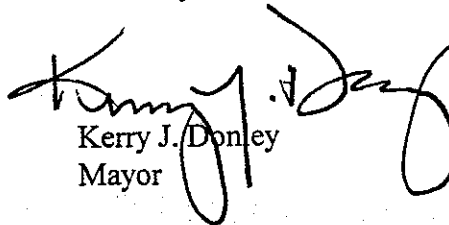
"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"

John V. Cogbill, III
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Page 2

The proposed barrier benefits all 39 of the impacted residences, St. Mary's School, and many other homes in the immediate area, as well as providing substantial noise reduction in Jones Point Park and in neighborhoods beyond the impacted area. The transparent barrier would not obstruct the view of motorists and, because it is over land with adjacent tall trees, the barrier would not be visible from the water. Our citizens heartily support this option because they believe that it protects their homes without detracting from either the aesthetics or the function of the new bridge.

We request your support, and the support of the National Capital Planning Commission, for this beneficial modification of the design for the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Sincerely,



Kerry J. Donley
Mayor

cc: Members of City Council
Philip Sunderland, City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
William Skrabak, Chief, Environmental Quality
Ronaldo T. Nicholson, P.E., VDOT Project Manager
Robert D. Douglass, P.E., MSHA Project Director
Hillary Altman, NCPC, Director of Urban Design & Review
Eugene Keller, NCPC

Send to CC, CM

NO #2, 12/14/02



NCPC
NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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IN REPLY REFER TO:
NCPC File Nos. 0349/3083

FEB 3 2003

The Honorable Kerry J. Donley
Mayor of Alexandria
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, VA 22314

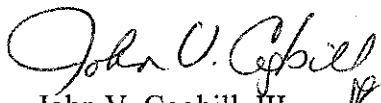
Dear Mayor Donley:

Thank you for the recent letter outlining your concern and position on the noise mitigation issue relating to the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge now under construction.

I want to assure you the Commission will consider your views and advisement should the Federal Highway Administration submit any project plans for modifying the new Wilson Bridge design to NCPC for review.

Again thank you for your letter, and I appreciate your interest in the Commission's work on this important transportation project for the National Capital region.

Sincerely,


John V. Cogbill, III
Chairman



Received by CC
PF N.B.#2, 12/14/02



City of Alexandria, Virginia

*301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314*



Kerry J. Donley
Mayor

(703) 838-4500
Fax (703) 838-6433

April 10, 2003

Harry G. Robinson, III, Chairman
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street, NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001

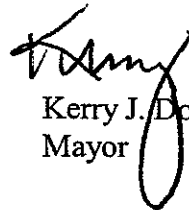
Re: Woodrow Wilson Bridge Proposed Noise Barrier

Dear Mr. Robinson:

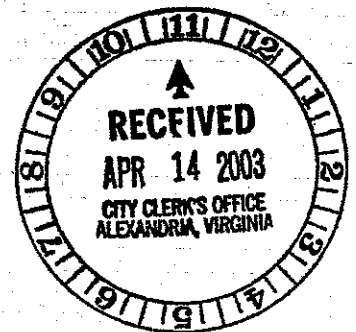
On behalf of the City Council and citizens of Alexandria, I would like to express our appreciation for the action taken by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts in approving the proposed transparent sound barrier extending onto the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. We strongly believe that this barrier will provide much-needed protection from traffic noise in historic Old Town.

I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Kerry J. Donley
Mayor

cc: Members of City Council
Philip Sunderland, City Manager
Richard J. Baier, P.E., Director, Transportation & Environmental Services
William Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality
Ronaldo T. Nicholson, P.E., VDOT Project Manager
Robert D. Douglass, P.E., MSHA Project Director
Frederick J. Lindstrom, Assistant Secretary, CFA



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